

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 IO-14 INT-05 DLOS-09 SS-15

SP-02 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 OIC-02 EB-08

/088 W

-----094602 030751Z /15

R 020355Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY SUVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7105

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TTPI SAIPAN MARIANAS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS SUVA 0343

SAIPAN FOR STATUS LNO

TOKYO FOR FISHERIES ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, PLOS, FJ

SUBJECT: REGIONAL FISHERIES AGENCY

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED LETTER FROM ROD GATES, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SOUTH PACIFIC BUREAU FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION, REQUESTING OUR POSITION IN RESPECT TO ISSUANCE BY SPEC OF INDIVIDUAL INVITATIONS TO U.S. DEPENDENT TERRITORIES TO ATTEND JUNE CONFERENCE ON AGENCY. TEXT OF PERTINENT PORTIONS OF LETTER FOLLOWS:

"YOU WILL RECALL AT THE LAST MEETING THAT THE MICRONESIAN DELEGATION (OR AT LEAST SOME PARTS OF IT) EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THEY HAD NOT BEEN ACCORDED SEPARATE STATUS AS AN OBSERVER. UNDER THE TERMS OF THE INVITATION WE EXTENDED TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT A MICRONESIAN DELEGATION WOULD BE INCLUDED WITHIN THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION

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AND IN THE EVENT YOUR GOVERNMENT FOLLOWING THIS COURSE. YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT SINCE THEN WE HAVE RECEIVED A LENGTHY AND ELOQUENTLY ARGUED APPEAL FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DELEGATION OF MICRONESIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE ASKING THAT THE DELEGATION OF MICRONESIA BE INVITED TO THE RESUMED SESSION IN ITS OWN CAPACITY IF NOT AS A FULL PARTICIPANT AT LEAST AS AN OBSERVER. I BELIEVE IF WE WERE TO

CANVASSTHE VIEWS OF OUR ISLAND MEMBERS THEY WOULD TAKE THE VIEW THAT IF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA'S POINT OF VIEW ON THE ISSUES IN QUESTION IS DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION AND IF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA HAS AUTHORITY TO ADMINISTER MATTERS RELATING TO FISHERIES AND LAW OF THE SEA QUESTIONS IN THEIR ZONES THEN THAT SEPARATE POINT OF VIEW SHOULD BE HEARD IN THE MEETING.

BEFORE WE ISSUE INVITATIONS WE WOULD WELCOME YOUR REACTION TO THE POSSIBILITY OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA BEING ACCORDED SEPARATE RECOGNITION AS AN OBSERVER AT THE MEETING SO THAT IT COULD BE SEPARATELY IDENTIFIED ALONG WITH OTHER OBSERVERS (IF IT SO WISHED). THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR OBSERVERS AT THE LAST MEETING (WHICH WILL PRESUMABLY FOLLOW FOR THIS ONE ALSO) WERE THAT OBSERVERS HAD NO RIGHTS TO SPEAK OR VOTE BUT THEY COULD REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE MEETING. YOU WILL RECALL IN HE LAST MEETING THAT A NUMBER OF OBSERVERS AVAILED THEMSELVES OF THIS OPPORTUNITY.

IF THE UNITED STATES COULD CONTEMPLATE OBSERVER REPRESENTATION FOR MICRONESIA WE WOULD BE GLAD TO ISSUE AN INVITATION THAT WOULD MAKE THIS POSSIBLE. PERHAPS I SHOULD ADD THAT WE MAY WELL BE PRESSED BY ONE OR MORE OF OUR MEMBER GOVERNMENTS TO DO THIS IN ANY EVENT."

2. GATES SOUNDED OUT AMBASSADOR SELDEN, DURING FAREWELL CALL AT SPEC MARCH 21, AND CHARGE ON THIS QUESTION. WE RESPONDED UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT AS GENERAL PRINCIPLE U.S. DELEGATIONS TO INTERNATIONAL CONFEENCES SPOKE WITH ONE VOICE, AND THAT EFFORTS TO SPLIT MIXED DELEGATIONS PERHAPS HOLDING DIFFERING INTERNAL VIEWS WERE RESISTED. I NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT AS GATES KNEW, SOME MICRONESIAN MEMBERS OF U.S. DELEGATION TO NOVEMBER CONFERENCE WERE ACTIVE IN PUTTING FORTH OWN POSITIONS INFORMALLY.

3. REQUEST ADVICE UPON WHICH TO BASE REPLY TO SPEC LETTER. SAIPAN MAY WISH TO COMMENT. FLANEGIN

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